

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMCONGSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5066

INFO CINCPAC

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7078

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, PGOV, PINR, PINT, CH, US

SUBJ: DEBRIEFING OF CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS
DELEGATION

REF: PEKING 1188 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST, TOUCHING ON SINO-U.S.
RELATIONS, THE RETURN OF TENG AND THE PRC'S ABILITY TO
ABSORB FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY, EMERGED DURING JUNE 17
DEBRIEFING OF CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHERS GROUP.
THE GROUP HAD JUST EXITED FROM 3-WEEK TOUR OF PRC:
-- IN TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN,
LI EMPHASVTJD THAT THE TIME IS RIPE FOR THE U.S. TO BEGIN
NEGOTIATIONS ON NORMALIZATION. GROUP FELT THIS WAS THE
CHIEF MESSAGE CHINESE WERE TRYING TO IMPART TO THEM.
-- NACY TANG (TANG WEN-SHENG) DOMINATED THEIR
MEETING WITH LI, OFTEN CORRECTING THE TRANSLATOR
AND PROVIDING LI WITH GUIDANCE. "HE LISTENED, TOO",
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STATED A MEMBER OF THE GROUP.

-- MA YU-CHEN, DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN PRESS LIAISON
DIVISION FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, TOLD THE GROUP
THAT TENG HSIAO-PING WOULD DEFINITELY RETURN TO A
POSITION "IN THE GOVERNMENT". MA DID NOT MENTION A
TIMEFRAME.

-- A DUTCH EMPLOYEE OF KELLOGG TOLD THE GROUP THAT

THE INITIALLY COMPLETED FERTILIZER PLANTS BUILT BY HIS COMPANY ARE NOW FALLING APART BECAUSE THE CHINESE WILL NOT TAKE ADVICE ON HOW TO MAINTAIN THE FACILITIES. THE EMPLOYEE FELT HIS COMPANY SHOULD NOT UNDERTAKE ANY FURTHER PROJECTS IN CHINA AS HE WAS AFRAID THE CHINESE WOULD BLAME KELLOGG FOR ANY PRODUCTION FAILURES.

-- A CANADIAN ENGINEER AT THE SHENGLI OIL FIELDS ALSO COMMENTED ON THE LOW LEVEL OF CHINESE TECHNOLOGICAL SKILL. "AS SOON AS THEY START PROJECT NUMBER 2, PROJECT NUMBER 1 BEGINS TO FALL APART," SAID THE ENGINEER.

-- ONE OF THE INTERPRETERS ACCOMPANYING THE GROUP STATED THAT TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING THE COUNTRY WERE EDUCATION AND FAMILY PLANNING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. WHEN ASKED TO CITE ONE OF THE FACTORS IN THE LATTER PROBLEM, THE TRANSLATOR REPLIED IN ENGLISH: "MALE CHAUVINISM".

-- A CHINESE-AMERICAN WOMAN TRAVELING THROUGH CHINA TOLD THE GROUP SHE FELT THERE WAS LESS FOOD AND LESS VARIETY IN THE MARKETS COMPARED TO HER PREVIOUS TRIP FOUR YEARS AGO.

-- AT A SILK FACTORY IN HANGCHOW, ONE FEMALE WORKER STATED THAT BEFORE THE FALL OF THE "GANG OF FOUR" THE FACTORY HAD BEEN TURNED INTO A JAIL. SHE CLAIMED THAT ALTHOUGH SHE WAS PREGNANT, SHE HAD BEEN HELD PRISONER IN THE FACTORY FOR EIGHT MONTHS, NOT ALLOWED TO SEE HER FAMILY AND LOST THE BABY.

2. OVERALL, THE GROUP CAME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION
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THAT CHINA WOULD HAVE A TREMENDOUSLY DIFFICULT TIME BUILDING UP THE COUNTRY GIVEN THE PRESENT LOW-LEVEL STATE OF ITS ECONOMY AND CHINA'S AMBIVALENT FEELINGS TOWARD WESTERN TECHNOLOGY.
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